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Alabama candidate denies sexual misconduct

BY MICHAEL SCHERER AND DAVID WEIGEL
Washington Post

WASHINGTON

Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore denied any sexual misconduct in a radio interview with Sean Hannity and said he never knew Leigh Corfman, the woman who accused him of initiating sexual contact when she was 14 and he was 32. "I don't know Miss Corfman from anybody," said Moore. "The allegations are completely false. I believe they're politically motivated."

Roy Moore

When pressed by Hannity, Moore said that he knew several of the other women who spoke to The Washington Post, which published the allegations Thursday, but did not "remember going out on dates." He admitted taking "young girls" out after returning to America following his service in Vietnam, but denied serving Gloria Thacker Deason, one of the accusers, rose wine, saying that any date would have happened in a dry county.

"She said she believed she was underaged," said Moore. "As I recall she was 19 or older. I never provided intoxicating liquor to a minor. I seem to remember her as a good girl."

Meanwhile, Republican leaders scrambled Friday to limit the political damage from allegations that Moore initiated sexual encounters with a 14-year-old girl and other teenagers nearly four decades ago, even as Moore pushed forward with his cam-

SEE ALABAMA, 2A

INSIGHT

Pot might not be so easy to find when it becomes legal Jan. 1

BY BRAD BRANAN
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When recreational marijuana sales became legal in Nevada on July 1, customers were lined up around the block of a dispensary near downtown Reno, eager to buy buds. In Las Vegas, cannabis enthusiasts showed up in limos and tour buses, ready to participate in the opening-day pot festivities.

Similar scenes are unlikely to occur across the state when California allows adults to legally buy marijuana Jan. 1. Very few places in the capital region, for example, are considering allowing retail sales or delivery of cannabis, and the ones that are don't expect sales to begin by the start of the year.

Sacramento and Davis may allow dispensaries to sell pot to adults for recreational use, while other cities and counties already have voted against allowing retail sales. The city of Sacramento is the only place in the region planning to allow commercial cultivation of recreational pot, although Yolo County is permitting commercial growing of medical marijuana.

The Sacramento City Council expects to discuss retail sales and delivery at its Nov. 28 meeting. At least some of the city's 30 medical marijuana dispensaries are interested in selling recreational weed, said the city's pot czar, Joe Devlin. Delivery companies also are interested in selling pot, and they could become dispensaries without a storefront, he said.

By 56 percent of the vote in November of last year, Californians legalized recreational use of marijuana for adults 21 and over. The historic passage of Proposition 64 came two decades after state voters approved medical use. Last year's vote also gave local governments the authority to regulate or ban marijuana businesses. The lengthy process of creating local and state regulations has yet to make clear when, where and how recreational pot will be

SEE MARIJUANA, 9A

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HONORING OUR VETERANS

Don Harper of the Sacramento Stand Down Association places two pins on the shirt of Army veteran Johnny Greene, 59, during a ceremony to honor homeless veterans in Friendship Park at Loaves & Fishes on Friday. According to officials at Loaves & Fishes, 13 percent of its patrons have served in the military. In Danang, Vietnam, President Donald Trump marked his first Veterans Day in office saluting veterans in Vietnam, one of the most polarizing conflicts in U.S. history. **4A**

LOCAL

PARENTS WON'T LOSE HOME

The adoptive parents of the man who killed a deputy won't lose their home even though he had skipped bail. **1B**

LOCAL

WANT TO RENT ELECTRIC BIKE?

Electric-assisted bikes will be available to rent for $2 per half hour next year in Sacramento, West Sacramento and Davis. **1B**

Marysville police chief leaves amid sex assault allegations

Aaron Easton is said to be under investigation in an alleged sexual assault of a female cadet in 2008 while he was a part-time instructor and a deputy. He denies the accusation.

BY SAM STANTON AND BRAD BRANAN
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Marysville Police Chief Aaron Easton left his post Thursday night after revelations that he is the subject of a sexual assault investigation involving a woman who was a former police cadet and later a Sacramento County jail inmate.

Easton's departure came following a report in the Marysville Appeal-Democrat revealing the Yuba County Sheriff's Office investigation into whether Easton forced the woman to perform oral copulation while she was a cadet at the Yuba College Police Academy and he was a part-time instructor there in 2008.

Easton could not be reached for comment Friday, but his attorney issued a statement to the Appeal-Democrat saying the former chief "categorically denies these allegations."

Yuba County District Attorney Patrick McGrath confirmed Friday that an investigation into the allegations has been underway for more than a year and that it is close to being completed.

Aaron Easton

"It's alleged to be a forcible sex crime," he said, adding, "There's been no filing decisions made as to whether criminal charges will be filed because we do not have all the investigative materials yet."

McGrath added that the statute of limitations in a sexual assault case is 10 years, so "we are still within that statute."

"We believe we are fairly close to having the investigation concluded," McGrath said.

The investigation stems from an April 2016 claim made by the alleged victim while she was held as an inmate at the Sacramento County jail on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence, according to the Appeal-Democrat.

The Marysville newspaper based its report on a series of search warrant affidavits filed in Yuba Superior Court that were recently unsealed.

According to the court documents, the woman said she was required to complete three ride-alongs with Easton as part of her cadet training, the Appeal-Democrat reported. The first two were completed without incident, but the woman told an

SEE CHIEF LEAVES, 2A

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